



**INTERNATIONAL
MEDICAL
GRADUATE
TASKFORCE**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Conrad State 30 Improvement Act
Reauthorization and Expansion of Key Service-Based Physician Placement Program

Washington, DC -- The Conrad State 30 Improvement Act (S. 1979) was introduced today by Sen. Kent Conrad (D-ND), with co-sponsorship by Sen. Moran (R-KS). If passed, the Act would expand and permanently reauthorize the existing Conrad State 30 Program.

The Conrad State 30 Program began as a pilot program in 1994, as the Conrad State 20 program. The program has provided increased medical care to tens of millions of otherwise medically underserved Americans in rural areas and low-income populations by attracting U.S.-trained International Medical Graduate (IMG) physicians who agree to a three-year service period. Under the program, each state department of public health may recommend up to 30 new IMG physicians per year for participation in the program, to provide full-time medical care at no direct cost to state or federal government. Participating physicians are paid solely by their sponsor employers in the private and public sectors.

Timely passage of the Conrad State 30 Improvement Act is vital to avoid disruption of the program. Without passage of the Act, the Conrad State 30 Program will end on September 30th, 2012.

The IMG Taskforce enthusiastically supports the Conrad State 30 Program to complement efforts to increase the number of American medical graduates. The program provides a budget-neutral, effective approach to mitigating chronic physician shortages in the U.S. Our organization also supports the improvements to the program contained within the bill. These include additional paths to physician participation, increased physician retention mechanisms, the ability for smoother operation due to technical fixes, and strengthened self-enforcement mechanisms.

On March 30th, 2012, the IMG Taskforce will meet with legislators during our annual Physician Lobby Day to advocate for the Conrad State 30 Improvement Act, as well as other legislative measures to mitigate current and impending physician shortages.

The International Medical Graduate (IMG) Taskforce is a nationwide coalition of professionals in medicine and law dedicated to helping Americans, including in rural and other physician-shortage areas obtain the basic medical services they so desperately need and deserve. Our members work on behalf of universities, teaching hospitals, medical centers, and clinics of all sizes, and on behalf of IMG physicians seeking necessary authorizations. For more information, visit www.imgtaskforce.org.